

Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 A-01 SS-15 AID-05 PA-02
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 HEW-06 OES-07 TRSE-00
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P R 040125Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO USICA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4080
WHITE HOUSE
AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS BANGKOK 12863

USICA

FOR PGM/RC, EA, VOA/PF, PGM, P, PGM/RM/RR

STATE FOR CROGERS

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: MONDALE PRESENT AT AID LOAN AGREEMENT SIGNING IN BANGKOK

1. FOLLOWING FOR RELEASE AT 0930 HOURS GMT MAY 4

BANGKOK, MAY 4-- THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES TODAY SIGNED AN AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH THE U.S. WILL PROVIDE A 5.5 MILLION DOLLAR, LONG-TERM, LOW-INTEREST LOAN FOR EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT'S RURAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY PROGRAM.

2. RIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK CHOMANAN AND VISITING U.S. VICE PRESIDENT WALTER F. MONDALE PRESIDED OVER THE SIGNING AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE BY THAI FINANCE MINISTER SUPHAT SUTHATAM AND U.S. AMBASSADOR CHARLES S. WHITEHOUSE.

3. MR. MONDALE AND PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK HAD JUST CONCLUDED
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TALKS AT THE START OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BANGKOK.

4. THE THREE-YEAR PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY PROGRAM IS AMONG THE MOST AMBITIOUS RURAL HEALTH PLANS OF ANY DEVELOPING COUNTRY, IT AIMS AT INCREASING HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN 20 SELECTED RURAL PROVINCES THROUGHOUT THAILAND BY MAKING IMPROVEMENTS AT DISTRICT HOSPITALS, HEALTH AND MIDWIFERY CENTERS AND AT VILLAGE

LEVEL FACILITIES.

4. MEDICAL AND PARAMEDICAL PERSONNEL, INCLUDING VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS, WILL BE TRAINED. BETTER HEALTH PROGRAM MANAGEMENT, PARTICULARLY AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL, IS AN OBJECTIVE OF THIS PROGRAM. A STRENGTHENED RESEARCH AND EVALUATION CAPABILITY IS ANOTHER GOAL OF THE INTERNATIONALLY-FINANCED EFFORT.

6. THE PROGRAM IS PART OF THAILAND'S ACCELERATED FAMILY PLANNING AND HEALTH PROJECT AND IS BUDGETED AT OVER 65 MILLION DOLLARS. IN ADDITION TO THE U.S. LOAN SIGNED TODAY, THAILAND IS PROVIDING 20.7 MILLION DOLLARS AND THE WORLD BANK A LOAN OF THIRTY MILLION DOLLARS. THE REMAINING FUNDS ARE BEING PROVIDED BY CANADA, NORWAY AND AUSTRALIA.

7. THE U.S. LOAN IS AT TWO PERCENT INTEREST FOR THE FIRST TEN YEARS AND THREE PERCENT FOR THE REMAINING TWENTY YEARS WITH A TEN-YEAR GRACE PERIOD DURING WHICH ONLY THE INTEREST NEED BE PAID.

ABOVE FOR RELEASE AT 0930 HOURS GMT MAY 4
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